

Professor Pam Denicolo – University of Reading

Professor Pam Denicolo is the Director of the Graduate School for the Social Sciences, the Director of Postgraduate and Professional Studies in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Reading and an active member of the University Committee for Postgraduate Research Studies. Her passion for supporting and developing graduate students is also demonstrated through her contributions as Vice Chair to the UK Council for Graduate Education Executive Committee, as chair of the Society for Research into Higher Education Postgraduate Network and Executive editor of the Guides for Supervisors Series, and as a member of other national committees and working groups which, for example, review and evaluate the national implementation of the Roberts funded generic skills training, and the concordance of UK universities with the European Code and Charter.

As a psychologist working particularly in the fields of Professional and Postgraduate Education, she has supervised more than 50 doctoral students to successful completion, examined many more, and developed and led Research Methods Programmes for social scientists in her current and previous universities. She was honoured to be appointed an Honorary Member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for her contributions to the education of pharmacists. Her abiding interest in student learning, and hence teachers' teaching, is further demonstrated in invitations to provide academic staff development workshops worldwide, most lately on doctoral student training, support and examining and in her appointment as Visiting Professor in several HEIs (recently in Sweden, Iceland and Eire) with a remit to develop their doctoral provision. Her research has been oriented by a commitment to understanding the way participants in learning processes construe their roles, situations and activities, through the use and development of Personal Construct Theory approaches and methods.

Paul Toombs - Trainer/Consultant

Paul Toombs has over 30 years experience in enabling people to be superior performers. Since graduating with a Business Management degree Paul has worked with multinational organizations. Before moving into consultancy he worked for SKF, (Swedish), Goodyear, (US), and Portals, (UK).

In the UK he retains links with universities and works nationally with researchers and their supervisors. He is a leader for the Effective researcher and Broadening horizons courses; and directs and tutors on GRADschools. He also facilitates skills sessions; and works on personal and career development sessions for undergraduates, PGRs, researchers and academics.

Paul is a member of Competency International, a research consortium and consultancy formed to foster collaboration on the design and implementation of competency based interventions which produce measurable results for clients.

Internationally he has worked with SP Tyres, Siemens, Lufthansa, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Philip Morris, Hewlett Packard, UME Health in North America; Western, Central and Eastern Europe; Russia; Kazakhstan; Asia, and the UAE.

Paul also supports the Windsor Fellowship, a charity that runs personal development and training programmes targeting talented Black and Asian students in the UK.

In 1986, Paul became a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management. He sits on the Branch Committee and has served on the International Committee.

He has a passion for assessing and coaching people with their personal and career development using a competency based approach.